

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 201138Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3356

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 11007

EXDIS

BOMBAY FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, US

SUBJECT: TARAPUR

1. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN TALKED AT LENGTH AT DINNER WITH SETHNA, AUGUST 20. SETHNA WAS EVIDENTLY MUCH CONCERNED THAT OUR TARAPUR EXCHANGE NOT BREAK INTO THE OPEN AND BECOME A GREAT HASSLE. THE AMBASSADOR FELT SETHNA WAS QUITE SINCERE IN FEELING THAT THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US ON THE USE OF TARAPUR PRODUCED PLUTONIUM AND GENUINELY PUZZLED THAT WE SHOULD BE SENDING HIM ALL THESE LETTERS. IN ANY EVENT, THE AMBASSADOR SHOWED HIM THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT LETTER WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN TO THE INDIANS IN WASHINGTON. SETHNA SAID THE TEXT WAS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO HIM IF WE WOULD DELETE THE LAST TEN WORDS OF THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH. TO WIT, DELETE "THAT DO NOT INCLUDE USE IN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE." HE SAID IT IS PURELY A MATTER OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN PARLIAMENT (AND BY EXTENSION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS EVEN THE MIND OF THE PRIME MINISTER). SETHNA MADE THE POINT, WITH WHICH THE AMBASSADOR ENTIRELY AGREES, THAT LEAVING OUT THESE WORDS DOES NOT CHANGE THE MEANING OF THE SENTENCE INASMUCH AS WE DO NOT CONSIDER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES TO BE AN AGREED PURPOSE.

2. SETHNA FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT OUR LETTER REFER TO SECTION 25 OF THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 1969 AMONG THE IAEA,  
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

WHICH PROVIDES THAT EVERY THREE YEARS AND THEREAFTER EVERY FIVE YEARS THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REVIEWED "WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER IT SHOULD BE AMENDED."

3. THE AMBASSADOR REGARDS SETHNA'S PROPOSAL AS ACCEPTABLE AND URGES THAT IT BE ACCEPTED. WHATEVER THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF OUR QUESTIONING THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS, THAT PURPOSE MUST NOW YIELD TO THE LARGER OBJECT OF ENABLING THE SECRETARY TO BEGIN A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC EFFORT CONCERNING NON-PROLIFERATION WHEN HE ARRIVES HERE IN NINE WEEKS TIME. SETHNA, A UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN GRADUATE, IS BEING REASONABLE AND IS REASONABLE. HE IS A PERSON WITH WHOM WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTY COMMUNICATING AND REACHING AGREEMENT WHERE AGREEMENT IS POLITICALLY FEASIBLE. HE IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS. IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WE RISK A RUPTURE WITH HIM AT THIS JUNCTURE. THE IMPORTANCE OF THOSE COMING TALKS WAS INDICATED BY HIS REMARKS TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE PRESSURES WHICH EGYPT, LIBYA, AND ARGENTINA ARE PUTTING ON INDIA TO PROVIDE THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD PERMIT WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. SETHNA SAID THAT INDIA WILL NOT RPT NOT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES COOPERATE. IT IS OBVIOUS OUR JOB IS TO SEE THAT THIS IN FACT IS THE WAY INDIA ACTS. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO GET IN A ROW WITH THEM OVER WORDS. THE AMBASSADOR WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THIS ASPECT OF HIS CONVERSATION IN ANOTHER MESSAGE.

4. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE, THE DCM IS SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR AUGUST 21 WITH KEWAL SINGH. SETHNA WILL BE IN NEW DELHI THROUGH TOMORROW AND THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO WIND UP THIS MATTER BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. THE SOLUTION PROPOSED BY SETHNA HAS MUCH MERIT. THE AMBASSADOR ASSUMES THAT THE INDIANS WOULD NOT MIND OUR SENDING A FOLLOW-UP LETTER WHICH STATES THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES TO BE AN AGREED PURPOSE, BUT TO WHICH THE INDIAN'S WOULD NOT HAVE TO REPLY. THE DCM INTENDS TO ASK KEWAL SINGH ABOUT SETHNA'S PROPOSAL AND REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT IT IF THE INDIAN SIDE INDICATES ITS WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE ON IT.  
MOYNIHAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 AUG 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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